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MAY 24 2004

**OFFICIAL****PATENT**  
5589-02305/P688-05**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Application of:  
Nikoonahad et al.

Serial No. 09/957,468

Filed: September 20, 2001

For: **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR  
DETERMINING A CRITICAL  
DIMENSION, A PRESENCE OF  
DEFECTS, AND A THIN FILM  
CHARACTERISTIC OF A SPECIMEN**

Group Art Unit: 2877

Examiner: Pham, H.

Atty. Dkt. No. 5589-02305

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on the date indicated below:

May 24, 2004  
Date  
Pamela Gerik**AMENDMENT: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED FEBRUARY 23, 2004****MS: Non-Fee Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2004 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.